

# PATROL NEWS

May-June 2022

"Over 90 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"



See cover page 3.

# From the Staff ...

**Major Vince S. Rice**  
**Administrative Services Bureau**



In the August 1979 issue of the *Patrol News*, Colonel Alvin R. Lubker's "From The Superintendent's Desk" article introduced the Patrol to a new organization, the Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society (MASTERS). With Governor Joseph Teasdale as the honorary chairman, and 200 committed memberships, The MASTERS was established. This nonprofit organization is comprised of supportive citizens and retirees, as active members cannot join. Membership has grown to more than 1,600 caring individuals. Since their inception, The MASTERS has been there for our officers and their families—never in the spotlight, always behind the scenes, and *always* prepared and ready to assist, should the unthinkable happen. They have been there for surviving family members of 21 of our troopers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1993, the Patrol furthered its partnership with The MASTERS when we held our first joint awards ceremony and banquet. This partnership has provided a great way to pay tribute to our fallen heroes and honor the tremendous work of our employees. We recently presented 35 awards honoring the work, bravery, and sacrifice of our employees. These recipients were selected from over 68 nominations, all of whom exude the core values of this organization. Within the pages of this issue, you'll enjoy a story about this year's awards banquet. These recipients are but a snapshot of the talented members of the Patrol family from across the state. Most of them would humbly say, "I was just doing my job."

It has been comforting to know that The MASTERS is there and will continue to be there. I would like to thank the founders for having the vision and all the current members who continue to do so much. When I retire, I will be honored to join this great organization, which has done and continues to do so much for the men and women of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. God bless and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent S. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



The official publication of the  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

*Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News*

## PATROL NEWS

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# PATROL NEWS

May-June 2022

"Over 90 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

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## Social Media Snapshot



*This photo was captured from a short video posted on social media April 15, 2022. Cpl. Ryan L. Hutton walks from his patrol car toward the camera wearing his long sleeves. Using a bit of editing flair, he transitions to short sleeves. Every year members of the Patrol look forward to April 15 when they move from a long sleeve shirt and felt hat to short sleeve shirt and straw hat. (They also get to lose the tie.)*

## Cover

*Chief DE Kristen Deraps (F) presents a newly created driver license to an applicant. Chief Deraps joined the Patrol in 2008. "I always had a strong desire to work in customer service," she said, "and was very familiar with the Patrol family and operations. The interactive duties of being a driver examiner really peaked my interest." She said getting to administer driving skills tests to nervous 16-year-olds and to those who haven't taken a skills test in over 50 years is the best part of the job. "As the chief, I also enjoy getting to work with such an amazing crew," said Chief Deraps. "I love seeing my employees succeed and enjoy hearing about all their experiences."*

# Bomb Squad: Thank You, BPD!

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

On a sunny day in early March, the Patrol's Bomb Squad welcomed some VIPs to their office. Their guests weren't politicians or famous personalities, but they were integral to the mission of the unit. These guests came from the Patrol's Budget & Procurement Division and included our grant writers, accountants, purchasing and supply personnel, as well as the Division of Drug and Crime Control's accountants.

"When I began supervising the Bomb Squad, I noticed a need for new equipment," said Sergeant Alex R. Vivas (Q/DDCC). "I found out there are people who handle this. The Bomb Squad guys created a presentation for the grant writers, Teri Ford and Holly Haarman, to explain what we do. That meeting catapulted Teri and Holly into brainstorming. We've received over \$1M in equipment, because of the work they, and the rest of BPD, have done on our behalf. When the new robot arrived, the guys wanted to hold an open house for those who have helped us."

Also present that day was Special Agent P. Todd Casey, who serves as the FBI's liaison to the Patrol's Bomb Squad. He said all Patrol technicians are trained at the FBI's Hazardous Device School in Huntsville, AL. "All MSHP bomb techs have secret level clearance and attend training for

radiological or improvised nuclear devices," he said. The Patrol's Bomb Squad responds to calls throughout the state. Currently, the agency has five technicians. The FBI Hazardous Devices School would allow the agency to have up to nine due to the area it covers and number of calls.

"Last year, the Bomb Squad took care of 96 IEDs," said Cpl. Evan T. Hane (Q/DDCC). "There were 89 in 2020."

Cpl. Hane introduced the guests

system. However, if necessary, the equipment can be hard-wired. The new system allows for a second X-ray without the extra step of cleaning the panel between X-rays required by the old system. "We can save the image, share it, and make case notes or draw right on the image," said Cpl. Hane.

"I don't touch anything without first X-raying it," explained Cpl. Hane. "When we render a device safe, we are also trying to preserve the evidence and help catch the perpetrator. One

thing that is especially beautiful about this equipment is the photo library showing the internal working of a device. Having this library could help us link cases. We're in the business of catching criminals."

"This system limits the time we are close to the target," said Sgt. Vivas. "With this system, a technician goes to the target, sets up equipment, and can take as many X-rays as they want without having to go back to the target's location. The safety of our bomb tech is the most important thing in these situations."

"The image allows us to evaluate the device," Sgt. Vivas continued. "That's the big thing about the X-ray. We can share the image and get feedback from others on the team or the FBI to decide how to disarm it."

The Bomb Squad included a new helmet in its display of new acquisitions. "I was surprised when I learned about some of the research in the field on traumatic brain injuries," said Cpl. Devin Foust. "The military did a huge study about how your skull



*Sgt. Mike Cunningham, Sgt. Erik Eidson, Cpl. Devin Foust, and Cpl. Evan Hane (all Q/DDCC) speak highly of the new robot's capability.*

to SmartRay Vision's Xray system. Where the old system used for X-raying suspicious devices required a large case on wheels, the new technology fits inside a backpack. A bomb technician places a lightweight panel next to the suspect device and the Smart Ray Vision system uses digital radiography to send an X-ray to a touch screen, smart tablet. The image appears almost instantly. The SmartRay Vision has its own wi-fi



# - Bomb

Continued from page 4.

flexes when exposed to explosions.” The new helmets have ear protection and padding; the previous helmets did not. Made by Safariland, the helmets have a five-year life span before they need to be replaced.

Sgt. J. Erik Eidson introduced the guests to the Med-Eng EOD 10 bomb suit. The jacket and pants are similar to previous suits with many layers of heavy Kevlar to protect the technician from fragmentation and blasts. The full suits weight 100 pounds; the helmet by itself is 25 pounds.

Co-workers will help a technician don the suit, and a partner is assigned to make sure he remains hydrated and as comfortable as possible. The EOD 10 has a fan, and the technician uses voice commands to turn on lights and regulate the suit’s temperature. The helmet also includes communication capability with the rest of the Bomb Squad on scene.

In addition to the previous

equipment, grants allowed for sliders to be installed on the unit’s pickup. This improved both access and security. New day boxes for calls not requiring on-site detonation are aluminum and much lighter than their steel predecessors. “We don’t have to take the big truck everywhere we go,” said Sgt. Mike Cunningham. “When families call about grandpa’s ordinance from the war or a trooper finds something suspicious during a traffic stop, we can respond in the pickup.”

The updated robot is a Remotec FX complete with a touch screen. Additional upgrades from the previous robot include a camera in the gripper. The technician can see what they are trying to pick up or move. The old robot had cameras in other locations. The Remotec FX also has two more joints in the arm when compared to the older model. The new robot weights 1,000 pounds and can pick up 275 pounds.

“It can move almost like a snake,” said Cpl. Foust. He said they had to attend two and a half days of training before the company would release the robot to the Patrol.

“The robot also has a brain with recall. If you’re using the arm to recover something it backtracks using the same path,” said Cpl. Hane. “There’s a laser range finder in the gripper to help with depth perception, since cameras are two dimensional.”

After the demonstration, the Bomb Squad thanked their guests for coming and encouraged them to enjoy some refreshments.

“Our goal was to show our appreciation to the men and women working behind the scenes to get the things we need to enable us to do our jobs more safely,” said Sgt. Vivas. “They work hard to help us, and it was important to us to give them the recognition they deserve.”

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## Troop A Presents Honorary Trooper Certificate

By Sgt. Andrew J. Bell (A)

On Monday, April 4, 2022, members of the community of Warsaw, and friends and family members of Mr. Gerald D. Smith gathered on the front steps of the Benton County Courthouse. Captain Steve V. Wilhoit (A) presented Mr. Smith with an Honorary Trooper certificate for his heroic actions and service

above self. What made this day extra special was the presence of Ms. Debra A. Boston, the woman Mr. Smith rescued.

On the night of December 15, 2021, Ms. Boston was traveling on Missouri Route M in rural Benton County. Ms. Boston experienced a medical issue and lost control of her vehicle. Her vehicle overturned off the highway

and a fire began within the engine compartment. A passing motorist, Mr. Smith, stopped at the scene of the crash. He observed flames coming from

the vehicle and rushed to the vehicle to see if anyone was inside. Ms. Boston was trapped inside and required his assistance. He cut her seat belt and safely removed her from the vehicle. The vehicle quickly became engulfed in flames soon after Ms. Boston was pulled to safety.

Sergeant Ben N. Comer (A) investigated the crash and conducted several interviews with first responders, Ms. Boston, and Mr. Smith. It was very apparent to Sgt. Comer and others that Mr. Smith’s actions were heroic.

“He saved my life! If he had not been there, I would have died,” said Ms. Boston.



*Capt. Steve Wilhoit (A) presents an Honorary Trooper certificate to Mr. Gerald D. Smith. Ms Debra Boston attended, also.*

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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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## **Rod L. Calvert**

Sergeant  
Troop C

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
26 years, nine months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Chris L. Cerroni**

Sergeant  
Troop B

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
29 years, three months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Gregory L. Franklin**

DE III  
Troop A

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
6 years, 10 months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Jeff R. Kinder**

Sergeant  
Troop G

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
27 years, nine months  
of dedicated service.*

## **Dale S. Lawrence**

Criminalist Sprv.  
Q/CLD

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
33 years, eight months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Larry G. Lueckenhoff**

Asst. Director  
Q/CJISD

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
36 years of dedicated service.*



## **Tim W. Murrell**

Trooper  
Troop A

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
28 years, three months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Darcy D. Vette**

CVO Sprv. I  
Troop H

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
16 years, two months  
of dedicated service.*



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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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## **E. Gene Warren**

DE Sprv.  
Troop A

*Retired April 1, 2022.  
20 years, six months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Jerry L. Arnold**

Sergeant  
Troop F

*Retired May 1, 2022.  
27 years, four months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Myla E. Ashby**

DE Sprv.  
Troop C

*Retired May 1, 2022.  
23 years, eight months  
of dedicated service.*



## **F. Jen Henbest**

DE III  
Troop C

*Retired May 1, 2022.  
Five years, eight months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Steve A. Holder**

Sergeant  
Troop B

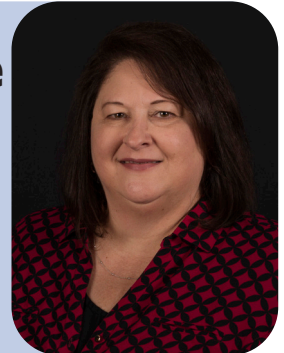
*Retired May 1, 2022.  
28 years, nine months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Brenda A. LeCure**

Special Asst.  
Q/DDCC

*Retired May 1, 2022.  
35 years, 11 months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Leon J. Libbert**

Auto. Tech. III  
Q/FFD

*Retired May 1, 2022.  
26 years, four months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Scott E. Mertens**

Sergeant  
Q/DDCC

*Retired May 1, 2022.  
26 years, four months  
of dedicated service.*



# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

**L. Andy Streeter**

DE Sprv.  
Troop A

*Retired May 1, 2022.  
14 years, one month  
of dedicated service.*



## Dunns Accept Honorary Trooper Awards

*By Cpl. Logan M. Bolton (C)*

On Tuesday April 5, 2022, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn received the Honorary Trooper certificate for their actions on August 1, 2021. The ceremony took place at the Troop C Headquarters in Weldon Spring, MO. Lieutenant Julie A. Scerine (C) presented Mr. and Mrs. Dunn with their Honorary Trooper certificates. The certificates recognized their brave, selfless actions at the scene of a traffic crash.

At 2:03 p.m. Sunday, August 1, 2021, a single vehicle crash occurred on Missouri Highway 94, west of Church Hill Road, in Warren County, Missouri. The driver of the vehicle failed to negotiate a curve and the vehicle traveled off the right side of the roadway, struck a tree, and caught on fire. Due to the force of the impact, the driver and two passengers sustained serious injuries and were rendered unconscious. Mr. Patrick Dunn and his wife, Amy, were driving on Missouri 94 and observed the vehicle off the roadway and on fire. Seeing the driver inside the vehicle, the Dunns immediately stopped their vehicle in the roadway, grabbed a fire extinguisher, and ran toward the burning vehicle.

Patrick and Amy removed the driver from the vehicle. The fire continued to burn in the engine compartment as Patrick attempted

to remove the front seat passenger, but he was unable to open the passenger door. Seeing there was a rear seat passenger, Patrick and Amy removed that person from the vehicle. Patrick then returned to the vehicle to try to remove the front seat passenger. He had to retrieve a knife, and with the help of some neighbors, cut the seat belt and recline the seat. The front seat passenger was pulled from the vehicle through the rear door. At this point, the vehicle was engulfed in flames, so Patrick and Amy assisted in moving all the occupants farther away from the fire as emergency first responders began arriving on the scene.

Patrick and Amy Dunn's disregard for their own safety saved the lives of three people.

"The Dunns went above and beyond a normal citizen's response when faced with such a dangerous and traumatic event," said Captain Ryan A. Burckhardt (C) on the nomination form. "Without the heroic actions of the Dunns, one or all of the occupants of the vehicle may have lost their lives. Patrick and Amy Dunn



*Lt. Julie Scerine (C) presented Honorary Trooper certificates to Amy and Patrick Dunn.*

placed themselves in harm's way, with complete disregard for their own safety, and risked their lives to provide aid to complete strangers without hesitation."

Colonel Eric T. Olson also recognized the Dunns' actions, endorsing the nomination by stating, "Mr. and Mrs. Dunn selflessly risked their own safety when they entered a burning vehicle and helped extract three unconscious occupants. The lifesaving actions of Mr. and Mrs. Dunn are definitely in keeping with the Missouri State Highway Patrol's tradition of honoring those who assist other citizens of Missouri during emergency situations."



# Crash Closes Interstate For 20 Hours

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

The photos on this page show a traffic crash on Interstate 57 in Charleston, MO. Troopers determined extremely dense fog was a major factor. Tpr. Josh J. Schuenemeyer (E) had just come on duty and arrived on scene soon after it occurred. His call to Troop E Headquarters requesting the interstate be shut down due to the 20 tractor-trailers blocking the roadway was met with surprise and immediate assistance. Approximately 15 of his coworkers—from trooper to lieutenant—would come to the scene to assist. Nineteen fire departments, seven police/sheriff's departments, nine EMS departments, and one Air Evac came to help. The crash involved 40 vehicles, 10 of which caught fire. Twenty-six were commercial vehicles. Unfortunately, five people died and 18 were injured. Three people were air evacuated from the scene and the interstate was shut down for 20 hours. It would take 21 separate traffic crash reports to document the event.



## Thank You

On behalf of my family, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the prayers, calls, texts, cards, and other expressions of sympathy following the passing of my father. Please know that the love and support of our Patrol family was comforting and helped us through this extremely difficult time.

*God bless,  
Major Vince S. Rice, Q/ASB, and family*

I would like to express my family and my sincerest appreciation for the calls, cards, donations, and prayers after the death of my husband, retired DE III Ronald A. Mull. Thank you very much.

*God bless you all,  
Joyce Mull*



# Hundreds Gather To Recognize Service, Bravery

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)



Over 300 people attended the Patrol awards ceremony and The MASTERS banquet on April 30, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Mark S. James, began his career in law enforcement with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He served as a trooper for nine years before moving in other law enforcement directions. "But the training, the experience I received, the lifelong relationships I made, and, most importantly, the absolute professionalism that was ingrained in me as a trooper stayed with me my entire law enforcement career."

He spoke of serving as Missouri's Department of Public Safety director during the time the Patrol lost four officers in the line of duty in one year. He met the president of The MASTERS, Mr. Doug Libla, that year and saw firsthand how the organization takes care of our heroes' families.

"Tonight, we are going to honor some real heroes who have done some amazing things and deserve recognition," said Mr. James.



*Congratulations to all of the 2021 award recipients!*



Mr. James said, when done correctly, the law enforcement profession requires a wide range of skills, "from ninja warrior to social worker." He then emphasized, "The Highway Patrol does it right. It exemplifies professionalism in law enforcement." He also spoke of law

*Mr. Mark James, former U.S. Marshal, Western District, provided the keynote address.*

enforcement being part of the criminal justice system, and pointed out that drug treatment programs, mental health programs, social workers, probation and parole officers, public defenders, prosecutors, and judges are elements of that system. He said when any of the other elements fail, people break the law repeatedly, attract the attention of law enforcement, resist arrest, attack our officers, "and lo and behold, end up getting shot, and law enforcement gets blamed." Mr. James strongly disagrees with that perception and challenges, "anyone who feels law enforcement needs to be defunded and reformed to debate me. The facts do

*Troop A Color Guard presented and retired the colors, and HR Sprv. Madison Crisp (Q/HRD) sang the national anthem at the awards banquet.*

not support that attitude."

Mr. James then shared that in 2020, the Department of Justice published a study revealing 61.5 million people over age 16 had at least one contact with a police officer in 2018. The report used data collected by contacting random citizens, not information reported by police. The results in the area of "use of force" revealed the following statistics:



## — Recognize

*Continued from page 10.*

0.7 percent resulted in some form of pushing, grabbing, kicking, hitting. Less than 0.1 percent resulted in taser/some form of pepper spray. Less than 0.3 percent resulted in pointing or shooting of a firearm by a police officer; and only 2.2 percent of 61.5 million police encounters ended up in handcuffs.



*Tpr. Colton Beck (D) and Tpr. Cory Stauffer (I) display their Purple Heart awards. Both troopers have returned to active duty.*

“The facts do not support the argument the problem lies with the police and that police need reform and retrained,” said Mr. James. He pointed toward the need for a healthy, robust, and professional law enforcement presence when the other parts of the criminal justice system fail. “In Missouri, it is the Highway Patrol that sets the standards of professionalism for law enforcement in our state ... To all of you, I say thank you. I say thank you to the blue shirts, the brown shirts, all shirts, blouses, and lab coats. Whatever you wear, if you’re employed by the Highway Patrol, what you do every day is the job of a hero. May God bless you and keep you safe, always.”

*Complete descriptions of the awards can be found on the Patrol’s website under “news releases.” It was posted May 2, 2022.*

## *Congratulations, 2021 Awards Recipients!*

**Fred M. Mills MASTERS Public Service Award**  
Sergeant Jeffery D. Fugett, Troop D

**Superintendent’s Award For Excellence In Public Service**  
Communications Operator III Melanie A. Stallsworth, Troop H

### **Lifesaving Award**

Communications Operator III Lori L. Wood, Troop G  
Commercial Vehicle Officer I Travis A. Morris, Troop F  
Trooper Kara R. Dinwiddie, Troop F  
Trooper Brian J. Geier, Troop F  
Trooper Thadeus E. McVeigh, Troop C  
Trooper Jared O. Prater, Troop D  
Trooper James A. Rowe, Troop E  
Trooper Erica P. Volkart, Troop F  
Trooper Jeffrey J. Wilt, Troop C  
Corporal Dean A. Bartlett, Troop F  
Corporal Billy V. Cole, Troop A  
Corporal Dylan L. DeJournett, Troop E  
Corporal Kyle E. Easley, Troop B  
Corporal Kaleb F. Jeffers, Troop H  
Corporal Bradley E. Maudlin, Troop H  
Corporal Dale R. Reuter, Troop H  
Corporal Bryan H. Salmons, Troop F  
Corporal Alex J. Shibley, Troop C  
Corporal Adam D. Smith, Troop C  
Sergeant David B. Haggett, Q/RCOD  
Sergeant Charles W. Hoff, Q/WPD  
Sergeant Philip D. Hoffman, Q/GD  
Sergeant Kurt A. Schmutzler, Troop H

### **Meritorious Award**

Corporal Andrew J. Mayer, Troop C

**Matilda “Tillie” Sonnen Civilian Of The Year**  
Criminal Intelligence Analyst I Jesse L. McDow, Q/MIAC

**Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer Of The Year**  
Corporal Evan L. Tyrrell, Q/DDCC

### **Valor Award**

Trooper Colton J. Beck, Troop D  
Trooper Zachary D. Davidson, Troop A  
Trooper Tanner L. Wallace, Troop A  
Corporal Bryan W. Montgomery, Troop A  
Sergeant Ryan S. Smith, Troop A

### **Purple Heart**

Trooper Colton J. Beck, Troop D  
Trooper Cory M. Stauffer, Troop I

# 'Stand Fast, Hold The Line, 114<sup>th</sup>, First Of Its Kind'

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

Congratulations to the 114th Recruit Class, which graduated Friday, April 29, 2022, in a ceremony in the Patrol Academy's gymnasium. The 114th Recruit Class reported to the Academy on January 18, 2022. This was the Patrol's first accelerated recruit class. They reported to duty in their assigned troops on May 9, 2022.

Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe provided the keynote address, and Colonel Eric T. Olson addressed the class during the graduation. The Honorable Robin Ransom, Supreme Court of Missouri, administered the Oath of Office to the new troopers. The Troop F Color Guard presented the colors, and Sergeant Andrew A. Henry, Troop H, sang the national anthem. Trooper Peter D. Hummel, class chaplain, provided an invocation and benediction that was personal for the class.

Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe expressed his appreciation to the 114th Recruit Class both for inviting him to speak and for choosing a demanding, dangerous, and rewarding line of work. "Starting with the moment you take this oath you have the ability to profoundly influence lives."

He spoke of how some people will treat them with disdain and others with respect, but these people, whether they know it or not, depend on these new troopers to help keep



*Introducing the newest members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the 114th Recruit Class: (front row, l to r) Tpr. Eric Walker (I), Tpr. Chase Fox (F), Tpr. Casey Marks (F), and Tpr. Isaiah Lemasters (F); (back row, l to r) Tpr. Jake Stombaugh (C), Tpr. Peter Hummel (B), Tpr. Orrin Hawkins (E), Tpr. Stephen Bean (F), Tpr. Tj Willock (B), and Tpr. Sean Gomez (H).*

them safe. He told the class their communities knowing them as a person is important. "In every situation you face, stay true to your oath," Lt. Gov. Kehoe said. "Thank you for dedication to keeping Missouri families safe."

The new troopers were sworn in by Judge Ransom, repeating their Oath of Office with confidence.

"As you know, your recruit class marks a first for the MSHP," said Col. Olson when he addressed the class. "It's our first opportunity to examine an accelerated training environment. The goal? To hire quality people with a desire for public service capable of completing a condensed training environment, who can make an immediate impact on our efforts to provide law enforcement services to the citizens of Missouri."

The colonel spoke of meeting with the new troopers the prior week and learning why each of them had chosen

this particular career path and why the Patrol was a good fit for them and their family. He emphasized the importance, "of weighing all decisions, both on duty and off, with the Patrol core values in order to always represent yourself, your family, law enforcement, and the Patrol professionally at all times. Additionally, I asked each of you to LEAD. As we discussed, leadership doesn't have to be represented formally, with rank or position, but is most effective when it is by example. If you remember nothing about our meeting and these remarks today, please remember this expectation: To lead. I know each of you are up to it!"

Tpr. Fox, class commander, acknowledged the high level of training they had received and the challenges of being in law enforcement. He encouraged his classmates to accept the support of coworkers and family when the job was especially difficult. "Never forget



*Tpr. Eric Walker (I) signs his Oath of Office.*



*Continued from page 12.*

that your badge is not impenetrable,” he said.

“Be jubilant for the path you’ve chosen,” said Tpr. Fox. “Never forget why you got into this profession. Continue to serve with unmatched sacrifice. See wrong and try to make it right. See suffering and try to heal it. As many of our instructors have said, ‘Err on the side of freedom.’ Be vigilant, be safe ... Stand Fast, Hold the Line, 114, First of its Kind.”

“Leadership is a choice,  
not a position.”

— Stephen R. Covey,  
author, professor,  
consultant

The names (hometowns) and first assignments of members of the 114th Recruit Class are listed below:

**Troop B**

Peter D. Hummel (Quincy, IL), Marion/Ralls Counties  
Tj A. Willock (Colchester, IL), Macon/Shelby Counties

**Troop C**

Jake R. Stombaugh (Taylorville, IL), Ste. Genevieve/Perry Counties

**Troop E**

Orrin D. Hawkins (Fredericktown, MO), Bollinger/Cape Girardeau/  
Scott Counties

**Troop F**

Stephen W. Bean (Denton, TX), Boone County  
Chase A. Fox (Baylis, IL), Boone County  
Isaiah S. Lemasters (Middletown, MO), Montgomery County  
Casey A. Marks (Eldon, MO), Camden County

**Troop H**

Sean P. Gomez (King City, MO), Buchanan/Andrew Counties

**Troop I**

Eric Walker (Lebanon, MO), Phelps/Maries Counties

# Looking Back

## ... in the Patrol News

a crowd of nearly 20,000 people. Approximately 50 members of the Patrol assisted with security.

**50 years ago ...**

*May 1972* — The Patrol’s first golf tournament was featured on the front cover, center spread, and back cover. There was an “off course program” for interested spouses. While the employees were golfing, the wives enjoyed lunch at the Jefferson City Country Club, toured the Governor’s Mansion, and played cards.

**40 years ago ...**

*June 1982* — The front and back covers showed a Ku-Klux-Klan rally in Hannibal, MO. Anti-Klan demonstrators broke through the barriers during the rally

and law enforcement officers on scene were called upon to restore order. Approximately 150 people were present for the rally and demonstration. Fifty members of the Highway Patrol along with officers from the Hannibal Police Department, Marion County Sheriff’s Department, and Ralls County Sheriff’s Department handled the 15-minute event professionally.

**30 years ago ...**

*May 1992* — Mikhail Gorbachev graced the front cover. Mr. Gorbachev delivered a speech on the Westminster College Campus in Fulton, MO, before

**20 years ago ...**

*June 2002* — The 79th Recruit Class graduation was featured on the front cover, center spread, and back cover of this issue. Their flag proclaimed: “Dedicated to fighting crime, Class 79.” Retired Colonel Fred M. Mills served as keynote. Trooper Johny L. Ellsworth accepted the Superintendent’s Award from Colonel Roger D. Stottlemire.

**10 years ago ...**

*May/June 2012* — The centerfold of this issue congratulated the 32 employees honored at the annual awards banquet. On the front cover, Sergeant Tim Peters and his family were pictured after he accepted a Purple Heart award from Colonel Ron K. Replogle.

# 114th Recruit Class: *'It's Kinda Cool To Be First'*

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

They're known as the 114th Recruit Class, yet they are also the *first*. The 10 members of this class represent the Patrol's first accelerated recruit class. To be eligible for the 15-week training Academy, recruits had to possess an active Missouri Class A POST license in good standing or be able to obtain one prior to the start of recruit training. Candidates must have served a minimum of three consecutive years as a full-time Missouri POST-commissioned police officer, military police officer, or out-of-state police officer in a traffic, patrol, or investigations capacity.

and five of those men have children. One member of the class said his preschool-aged child understood the concept of "going to school." So, that was how he explained leaving each week. He also made a paper chain and dated each slip of paper to help her understand how long training would be. Every day, his daughter broke off one link. Another recruit mentioned having a photo of himself and a photo of home. His child moved his picture closer to home each day.

There were many similarities between an accelerated recruit class and other recruit classes. For instance,

"As a class, even with everyone's different level of experience and individual experiences, we're pretty close," said Tpr. Chase A. Fox, who served as class commander. "With our different backgrounds, I was surprised we came together so quickly. We want to get to work, but we are appreciating our time together at the Academy." "[There is] lots of diverse experience in the class," said Tpr. Stephen W. Bean. "Guys from SWAT, homicide investigation, narcotics, crash reconstruction, and DRE." The members of the 114th Recruit Class entered the Academy already having made DWI arrests totaling in the hundreds.

Every member of the 114th Recruit Class had been through a law enforcement training academy previously, so many of their current classes served as refresher courses. It was the general consensus of the group that the courses at the Patrol's Academy are more in-depth, and they all agreed they learned something in each one. Tpr. Fox said he learned the most in EVOC training. He hadn't had that type of training opportunity previously. Several named defensive tactics as an area where they learned a lot.

"The Patrol's Academy training is more professional and has higher standards," said Tpr. Isaiah S. Lemasters.

"I didn't know water patrol training was part of the Highway Patrol function until I arrived," said Tpr. Tj A. Willock.

The instructors earned high ratings, with observations on their being individual in their styles of presentation as well as senses of humor. Each instructor impressed the class with their level of knowledge.

"I always thought I was good with firearms, but Sgt. [Aaron] Griffin raised my proficiency and competency," said Tpr. Fox.



*The Honorable Robin Ransom, Supreme Court of Missouri, administers the Oath of Office to the 114th Recruit Class.*

They then successfully completed the multi-phase selection process before receiving an offer of employment.

The 10 members of the first accelerated academy came from various agencies within and outside Missouri. Tpr. Orrin D. Hawkins said knowing his assignment location before he reported to training was a big draw for him. Another said the caliber of training offered wasn't available through the much smaller agency where he'd been employed. All of them agreed the recruit class being accelerated was a bonus.

They range in age from 27 to 35 years old. Seven of the 10 members of the 114th Recruit Class are married

weeks of training, intense instruction, and that they all had to pass the POSTHP test before they were allowed to take their Oath of Office for trooper. Recruits in every class bid their families farewell each Sunday before making their way back to the Academy. Also, their shared Academy experience brings them together as a team.

However, there's something different about *this* class. Perhaps it's their previous experience in law enforcement. They brought with them a level of experience and maturity that might be found in individual members of a recruit class, but not *every* member of a recruit class.



## — First

*Continued from page 14.*

The entire group agreed that Sgt. Dave Echternacht's knowledge, communication, and people skills are exceptional.

Tpr. Bean was surprised by the quality of the meals, thinking a service would drop off meals rather than the Academy having a fully staffed kitchen. "Robert makes the best oatmeal," he said.

"The best I've ever had," agreed Tpr. Casey A. Marks.

Their experience at the Academy began on the same day as the 113th Recruit Class. The two groups trained together for the first month.

"The first four weeks were stress inoculation," said Tpr. Fox. "Some fun things happened that we still razz each other about. During the late-night fire drill, Bean was in such a hurry he had his shoes on the wrong feet." One of the instructors shined a flashlight on Bean's shoes and told him to fix his shoelaces but didn't notice they were on the wrong feet. Tpr. Bean said he ran with them that way up and down the GHQ hill twice, because he didn't want to draw attention to himself.

"At first, the Academy instructors appeared to be out to get us," said Tpr. Eric Walker. "They seemed to want us to quit. But, over time, we could see

they cared and wanted us to do well."

The experienced recruits in the 114th provided insight into Academy life to the 113th during those tough first weeks. For the 114th Recruit Class, it was hard leaving their children, where for many of the 113th Recruit Class members it was the first time away from their parents.

"We helped the other class be more professional and stay out of trouble with the instructors," said Tpr. Bean. "They still come talk with us. I think maybe it has helped having both classes at the same time."

"I looked at it as if they were the chum and the instructors were the sharks," said Tpr. Hawkins. "As long as we stayed out of the chum field it was all good."

Week five they began training as two separate classes. The 114th Recruit Class agreed the instructors gradually began treating them more like officers in about the seventh week of training. The group understood this would have been part of the accelerated academy model, but hoped their previous experience coupled with their success at the Academy influenced this.

"We're hoping our maturity and experience level has eased the

*Mr. Luke Hummel tests out his dad's hat.  
Tpr. Peter Hummel graduated with the  
114th Recruit Class on April 29, 2022.*



instructor's burden of having two classes simultaneously," said Tpr. Fox.

"I hope one thing they take away from our class experience is to learn from this process and make it better for the next accelerated class," said Tpr. Bean.

Tpr. Peter D. Hummel served as chaplain for the 114th Recruit Class. "In the first couple of weeks, Lemasters and I had people in our room from both classes talking privately during the initial adjustment. The 114th Recruit Class is such a small group we talk among ourselves and confide in each other. We came together quickly."

"We have developed some good memories working together," agreed Tpr. Bean. "A big one is knowing we are the first accelerated recruit class."

"I didn't think much about it at first, but once we went on our own as a class ...," said Tpr. Fox, "It is historical. It's kinda cool to be first."

## 14 Complete Student Alliance Program

*By Cpl. Justin S. Dunn (B)*

On Saturday, March 12, 2022, 14 area high school juniors and seniors representing nine schools completed the 2022 Troop B Student Alliance Program. The program was conducted on two Saturdays at the Troop B Headquarters in Macon, MO. Students were familiarized with many duties performed by a Missouri state trooper and participated in hands-on activities such as firing a Glock pistol, stop and approach, and crime scene investigations. The students observed a canine demonstration and heard presentations from several members and civilian employees of the Patrol. Each participant was presented with a certificate of completion.



*Congratulations to the 2022 Troop B Student Alliance  
Program participants!*

# Deaths

## Chris C.F. Hoskins



Christopher C. F. Hoskins, 68, of Macon, MO, died on February 28, 2022, after a lengthy illness. Chris attended Caruthersville High School and attended the University of Missouri-Columbia before completing his degree at Missouri Western. He joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol on April 1, 1980, as a member of the 52nd Recruit Class. Chris retired September 1, 2013, after 33 years of dedicated service. He was first assigned to Troop H, St Joseph, MO. He participated in the Police Olympics in Florissant, MO, where he earned gold medals for shot put and discus, setting new records in these events. Later, he was assigned to Troop B in Macon, MO. He was assigned to the Mark Twain Casino in Lagrange, MO, at the time he retired. Memorials are suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. To read more about Chris, visit the Greening-Eagan-Hayes Funeral Homes website at <https://www.greeningeaganhayes.com/obituary/christopher-hoskins>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Hoskins family.

## Mary M. Thompsons



Mary M. "Snooky" Thompsons, 91, of St. Joseph, MO, died Wednesday, March 16, 2022. She graduated from Bartlett High School in St. Joseph. She married Marion William "Big Pete" Thompsons on December 1, 1950. He preceded her in death on October 20, 1993. Mary worked at Hirsch Brothers and Sisters Hospital before joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a housekeeper in 1968. She retired in 1992 after 24 years of dedicated service. The family would like to thank everyone for their love and care

of Mary. She was preceded in death by her parents; foster parents; and siblings. She is survived by two sons, a granddaughter, a great-grandson, and numerous extended family and friends. To learn more about Mary, visit the Meierhoffer Funeral Home and Crematory website at [www.meierhoffer.com](http://www.meierhoffer.com). The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Thompsons family.

## Everett H. Morgan III



Everett H. Morgan, III, 81, of Corder, MO, died April 8, 2022, at the

## Sympathy

*Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:*

- Cpl. Justin E. Henderson (D) - mother
- Major Vince S. Rice (Q/ASB) - father
- Ret. Cpl. Brian L. Thompson - father
- Comm. Oper. III Ashley B. Atencio (A) - mother-in-law
- Ret. Major Greg D. Kindle - mother
- Ret. CVO Sprv. Mike W. Vance - daughter
- Ret. MVI Sprv. Tobi A. Vance - stepdaughter
- Cpl. Don P. Borgmeyer (B) - grandmother
- DE III Angela R. Johnston (E) - mother-in-law
- Ret. Sgt. Brent J. Bernhardt - mother
- Criminalist III J. Bob Burgio (Q/CLD) - mother
- Ret. Lt. Wayne E. Talburt - mother
- Sgt. Shayne K. Talburt (E) - grandmother
- Lt. Greg K. Leftwich (B) - son
- Ret. Sgt. Donald L. Wilson - wife



# Deaths

Meyer Care Center. He graduated from Corder High School and Central Missouri State University. He served in the Army National Guard from 1963-1969. Everett started a long career in law enforcement as a sheriff's deputy. After his graduation from the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy, he started what would become a 35-year career as a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He served in Troop A, in Zones 1, 4, 7, 8, and 9, and was part of the Rural Missouri Major Case Squad. He earned the rank of corporal, retiring on April 1, 2001. His civic commitments continued as he worked for the Corder Police Department, again for the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department, and for the city of Corder as assistant business manager. He is survived by a son, two daughters, 12 grandchildren, and a brother. Memorials are suggested to Boy Scout Troop 415 in Higginsville, MO. To learn more about Everett, visit the Kaiser-Wiegers Funeral Home website at <https://www.kaiserwiegers.com/obituaries/Everett-H.-Morgan,-III?obId=24525636#/celebrationWall>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Everett family.

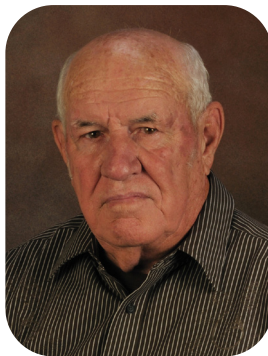
## Jerome W. Burford



Jerome W. "Whit" Burford, 76, of Cape Girardeau, MO, died Monday, April 11, 2022, at his home. After graduating high school, he entered

the United States Air Force and served honorably during the Vietnam War. Upon discharge, he joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol where he served the citizens of Missouri and the public for 30 years. Jerome is survived by his wife, Janet, two sons, a daughter, and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, and a sister. A memorial service will be held at a later time. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri, 2536 Boutin Dr., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. For more information about Jerome, visit the Edwards Funeral Home website at <https://edwardsfuneralhome.org/tribute/details/2404/Jerome-Burford/obituary.html#tribute-start>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Burford family.

## Jimmie D. Starbuck



Jimmie D. Starbuck, 86, died peacefully in his hometown of Stockton, MO, on April 23, 2022. J.D. graduated from Marionville High School. He served in the United States Army from June 1958 to May 1960, including a year in Germany. J.D. was appointed to the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a member of the 26th Recruit Class on January 13, 1963. He retired as a sergeant on August 1, 1991, after 30 years of dedicated service. J.D. is survived by

his wife of almost 65 years, Norma (Wolfe) Starbuck, three children, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. To learn more about J.D., visit the Bland-Brumback Funeral Home website at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/j-d-starbuck-obituary?id=34439447>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Starbuck family.

## Valerie J. Watkins



Valerie J. Watkins, 63, of Jefferson City, died Sunday, April 24, 2022, at Landmark Hospital in Columbia, MO. Valerie attended kindergarten in Crocker, MO, before the family moved to Iberia, MO, where she graduated from high school in 1977. After graduation, she began a career at the Missouri State Highway Patrol in Jefferson City, holding various positions from clerk to latent fingerprint technician, before retiring after 32 years. Valerie is survived by her brother, niece, nephew, great-niece, and great-nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Hickory Point Cemetery or a local animal shelter. To learn more about Valerie's life, visit the Fancher-Rekus Funeral Home website at <https://www.fancher-rekusfuneralhomes.com/obituary/valerie-watkins>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Watkins family.

# Missouri APCO Honors Communications Employees

*By Comm. Oper. III Zach M. Dykes (D)*

During the month of April, the Missouri Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials recognized two teams of communications operators for their performance during recent critical incidents.

On Friday, April 1, 2022, Comm. Oper. III Russ A. Windle, Comm. Oper. II Jason L. Stephens, and Comm. Oper. I Jason R. Edwards (all Troop D) accepted Certificates of Recognition for their actions during the December 10, 2021, shooting of Trooper Colton J. Beck (D). Missouri APCO Southwest Regional Ambassador Lori Sneed presented the certificates, and Missouri APCO President/Comm. Oper. III Zachary M. Dykes (D) presented them with a small lapel pin as a memento.

On December 10, 2021, Tpr. Beck advised he was in pursuit of a vehicle. In the course of the pursuit, he advised communications that the vehicle had been disabled and he had been shot. Comm. Oper. III Windle served as primary operator. He coordinated the initial response of troopers to the scene while simultaneously coordinating with the Springfield-Greene County 911 Center for additional responders. Comm. Oper. I Stephens kept the duty lieutenant updated while he and Comm. Oper. I Edwards began making the mandatory Patrol personnel notifications. The Troop D communications team worked together and with investigators to assist in developing suspect information and disseminating it to troopers and area agencies conducting an extensive search of the area. This resulted in the suspect's arrest the next morning. While doing this they continued to coordinate



*(l to r) Cpl. Richie Walker stands with Comm. Oper. I Patricia Limbaugh, Comm. Oper. III Justin Davis, and Comm. Oper. I Krysten Keeney, who were recognized for their handling of the tornado event that destroyed Cpl. Walker's home.*



*(l to r) Comm. Oper. II Jason Stephens, Comm. Oper. I Jason Edwards, Tpr. Colten Beck, and Comm. Oper. Russ Windle (all Troop D) are pictured. The communications officers were honored for their handling of the incident during which Tpr. Beck was seriously injured.*

communications between the command post, officers on perimeter detail, SWAT personnel, and area agencies.

In the nomination narrative, the operators were commended for their actions during the incident. "These communications operators worked beyond situational stress and their personal fear and concern for their injured trooper to ensure a successful

resolution to this incident. They remained calm and professional and helped provide some semblance of stability during a chaotic event. Their actions combined with the swift response of field responders meant the trooper continues to serve and protect the citizens of our state today. These operators are the epitome of the word team and deserve to be recognized as Missouri Teammates in Action."



The second group of communications operators honored by Missouri APCO hailed from Troop E. On April 5, 2022, after being postponed thanks to a massive snowstorm in February, Troop E Communications Operator III Patricia J. Limbaugh, Communications Operator III Justin L. Davis, Communications Operator I Krysten E. Keeney, Communications Operator III Doug R. Hager, and Communications Operator III Betty J. Rodgers accepted Certificates of Recognition for their performance October 24, 2021. Missouri APCO Secretary Angela Rodgers presented each certificate, and Missouri APCO President/Comm. Oper. III Zachary Dykes presented them with a small lapel pin as a memento.

On October 24, 2021, tornado sirens in Iron and Madison counties notified residents of a tornado approximately 30 minutes before

it touched down. The Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop E communications team began coordinating officer response to the area and made required notifications to staff members.

Around 9 p.m., the voice of Corporal Richie A. Walker (E) came over the radio saying he and his family had taken shelter in their basement, water was coming into the basement, severe storms were overhead, and they had a propane leak. As first responders made every effort to reach Cpl. Walker and his family, the corporal again called by radio saying his house was destroyed but he and his family were safe. Other calls flooded into Troop E and the Madison County Sheriff's Office, reporting damage to power lines, structures, and roadways. At shift change, Communications Operators Rodgers and Hager seamlessly took over the

communications duties.

These operators acted as a team handling a large amount of phone and radio traffic while keeping staff notified and coordinating the Patrol's response. They exemplified the Patrol Core Values of professionalism, resourcefulness, commitment, character, and compassion. Missouri APCO recognized them, "... for their tremendous ability to process information and provide exceptional customer service with professionalism and commitment during a time of uncertain safety to the people they know, love, and serve."

These are two examples of the outstanding work by Patrol communications operators. Every day, communications personnel provide calm in the storm, show compassion, and serve as living examples of the Patrol Core Values. Congratulations to all of them!

## BOHANNON NAMED HONORARY TROOPER

*By Sgt. Mike A. Mitchell (I)*

On October 31, 2021, troopers were dispatched to an overturned tractor trailer on Interstate 44 near Lebanon, MO. At the scene, Mrs. Charmaine Bohannon had found the driver incoherent and wandering in traffic with severe injuries to his left arm. She was the first person on the scene of the crash. Mrs. Bohannon quickly sprang into action and escorted the injured driver to



*After the presentation, Capt. Eddie Blaylock (I), Mr. Max Lehman (Mrs. Bohannon's son), Mr. William (Buck) Bohannon, Mrs. Charmaine Bohannon, Lt. Greg Dubois, and Col. Eric Olson posed for a picture.*



*Mrs. Charmaine Bohannon came upon this traffic crash and offered life-saving assistance to a driver.*

the safety of her vehicle, which was parked on the right shoulder of the roadway. She noticed the driver was in shock and blood was oozing from his arm. Mrs. Bohannon quickly removed her belt and used it as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. She then removed her jacket and used it to wrap the driver's disfigured arm. Mercy Hospital paramedics

indicated her actions were critical in keeping him conscious, calm, and alert until they arrived to transport him to the hospital.

To recognize Mrs. Bohannon's heroic and selfless actions, Colonel Eric T. Olson presented her with an Honorary Trooper certificate. Cpl. Jeff A. Ice (I) nominated Mrs. Bohannon for the award.

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: [mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov) • Home Page: <http://www.statepatrol.dps.mo.gov> [www.facebook.com/motrooper](https://www.facebook.com/motrooper)

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# CTO Martin Named Trainer Of The Year

*Submitted by Communications Division*

On March 15, 2022, Chief Training Operator Roger D. Martin (Q/CommD) accepted the “George Major Trainer of the Year” award at the Spring Missouri Public Safety Communications Conference. He was recognized for his dedication to training public safety communications professionals throughout the state of Missouri and at national conferences.

Roger has held various positions in both APCO and MOAPCO, is on the training committee of Missouri’s 9-1-1 Service Board, is co-chairman of the Missouri Training Partnership, oversees the Communications Division training program, trains trooper recruits on mobile and portable radio equipment, and coordinates communications support for the Patrol’s Academy.

Roger is always developing new training curriculum for public safety dispatchers, staying up-to-date on topics and trends in the public safety communications field. He is dedicated to developing dispatchers throughout their careers from the newly hired trainee to leadership.

**Congratulations, Roger!**

*Chief Training Operator Roger Martin (Q/CommD) holds the plaque naming him George Major Trainer of the Year.*

